

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

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COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 9071

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 9008

1. FOLLOWING A BRIEFING ON EVENTS IN NEW YORK BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WHO RETURNED YESTERDAY MORNING, THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT AUGUST 26 ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE THREE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (UK, FRANCE AND ITALY) IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEK APPEAL TO THE UNSC AS WELL AS OF THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. THIS STATEMENT WAS CARRIED WIDELY IN THE PRESS AND BY RADIO AND TV. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS RETURN, FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS REPEATED WHAT HE

HAD SAID IN NEW YORK TO THE EFFECT GREECE HAD ACHIEVED WHAT IT SOUGHT IN APPEALING TO THE UNSC. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS EXPRESSED HIS SATISFFACTION WITH THE EFFORTS OF BITSIOS AND THE GREEK DELEGATION AT THE UN.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, FOLLOWING SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE AEGEAN SEA, THE PRESS HAS SHIFTED ITS PRIMARY ATTENTION TO THE CALL FOR BILATERAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ). NEWSPAPERS QUOTE GOG CIRCLES IN REPORTING THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE GOG TO GET THE BILATERAL TALKS UNDERWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PROVIDING THERE ARE NO FURTHER TURKISH PROVOCATIONS. SEVERAL MENTION THAT A DEFINITE DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR THE TALKS WILL BE DETERMINED BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SEPTEMBER 14, WHEN IT IS CLAIMED THEY WILL BOTH BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY; OTHERS SAY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGH REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. SOME OF THE OPPOSITION PRESS PRESENT THE QUEST FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN A RATHER NEGATIVE WAY, UNDERLINING THAT GREECE NOW MUST UNDERTAKE THE NEGOTIATIONS IN FACE OF THE CONTINUING OPERATIONS OF THE SISMII IN THE AEGEAN, AS ASPECT THE RESOLUTION DID NOT ADDRESS.

3. WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTS AT THE ICJ IN THE HAGUE THE PRESS SHOWS A CERTAIN UNEASINESS BECAUSE THE COURT INQUIRED OF THE GREEK SIDE WHETHER THE COURT SHOULD TAKE THE UNSC RESOLUTION INTO CONSIDERATION. A SENSE OF CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY CAME THROUGH IN THE REPORTING ON THIS STORY, WHICH CONTAINED RESUMES OF WHAT THE GREEK SPOKESMEN SAID YESTERDAY AND REFERENCE TO THE GOT'S POSITION WHAT IT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT BECAUSE THE GREEK SIDE HAD APPEALED TO THE COURT UNILATERALLY.

4. THE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE UNSC RESOLUTION BY GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY, LIKEWISE RECEIVED WIDE PLAY. URGING A MORE RESTRAINED ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESOLUTION THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY CIRCLES IN GREECE WERE ATTRIBUTING TO IT, MAVROS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION, SPECIFICALLY, RECOGNITION A CRISIS EXISTED IN THE AEGEAN AND THE REFERENCE TO THE ICJ. HOWEVER, HE WARNED, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE TURKS APPROACH NEGOTIATIONS, AND GREECE MUST NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN INDETERMINABLE TALKS LEADING TO NO SOLUTION. TURKEY HAD NOT

RESPECTED UN DECISIONS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS, HE
UNDERLINED. RECALLING HIS EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS TO
SUSPEND THE BASE TALKS AND REEXAMINE GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH NATO, MAVROS URGED THAT THE GREEK NATION MUST BE
PREPARED FOR A LONG, HARD STRUGGLE WITH TURKEY, AND
STRESSED THAT THE ARMED FORCES MUST BE PREPARED TO DEFEND
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

5. RELATED ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE MEDIA ARE REPORTS
THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MET IN
CLOSED SESSION YESTERDAY AND HEARD SECRETARY AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TESTIFY ON THE AEGEAN
SITUATION. REPRINTS OF STORIES IN THE TURKISH PRESS
AND/OR STATEMENTS BY TURKISH PUBLIC FIGURES DEMANDING
THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS ARE ALSO
FROTH PAGE ITEMS. THE NEWS FROM TURKEY THAT THE SISMIK I WILL
AGAIN SAIL INTO THE AEGEAN, THIS TIME FOR A LONGER
PERIOD OF TIME THAN HER EARLIER TRIPS, IS ALSO NOTED
BY THE MEDIA.
KUBISCH

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